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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-02 SS-15 NSC-10

L-03 H-03 SY-10 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15 RSR-01 /115 W
---------- 009797
R 211228Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1307
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, UR
SUBJ: MFA RESPONDS TO REPRESENTATIONS ON TOURIST DETENTIONS

REF: MOSCOW 8875 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING CALL BY POL COUNSELOR ON ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF MFA USA DIVISION (BUBNOV) ON OTHER BUSINESS AUG. 20, SOVIET OFFICIAL REPLIED TO CONSOFF'S JULY 26 REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT ROSKIN AND ALDEN DETENTIONS.

2. BUBNOV SAID MFA HAD DETERMINED THAT ROSKIN BEHAVED "IN INSULTING WAY" TOWARDS SOVIETS STANDING IN A FOOD LINE IN ODESSA AND CONTINED TO CONDUCT HUMSLEF "INSOLENTLY" AT NEARBY MILITIA OFFICE TO WHICH HE WAS INVITED. BUBNOV SAID NO FILM WAS CONFISCATED AND ROSKIN MADE NO REQUEST TO CONTACT EMBASSY.

3. REGARDING ALDEN, BUBNOV SAID DIARY CONTAINING INSULTS TO SOVIET LEADERS AND PEOPLE WAS DISCOVERED IN HER EFFECTS AS SHE WAS LEAVING SOVIET UNION. MISS ALDEN ALLEGEDLY APOLOGIZED IN WRITING AND MADE NO PROTEST OR COUNTERCLAIM. BUBNOV SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO GRANT HER REQUEST TO CONTACT EMBASSY BECAUSE THERE WERE NO LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS AT POINT OF HER DETENTION (ON SOVIET-ROMANIAN BORDER).
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4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM BUBNOV'S REPLIES, MFA APPARENTLY REQUESTED AND RECEIVED REPORTS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN BOTH INCIDENTS. SINCE EMBASSY HAS IN PAST ONLY SPORADICALLY RECEIVED REPLIES TO ITS REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF MISTREATED US TOURISTS, MFA EFFORTS IN THESE CASES CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TOTAL LOSS. LOCAL AUTHORITIES, PRESUMABLY ON SEVERAL LEVELS, HAVE BEEN APPRISED OF US CONCERN ABOUT SUCH INCIDENTS, AND MFA HAS SERVED AS EFFECTIVE IF PASSIVE INTERMEDIARY. RESPONSES THEMSELVES ARE NOT SURPRISING, AS SOVIET AUTHORITIES VIRTUALLY NEVER ACKOWLEDGE FAULT ON SOVIET SIDE. UNLESS DEPARTMENT SEES REASON TO PURSUE CASES FURTHER, WE DO NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO THEM.
DUBS

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